

What is claimed is:

*Sub a1* → 1. A method of packaging edible seedlings for distribution to and use by consumers, said method comprising:

providing a tray including a bottom surface and an upper edge surface and having a predetermined height dimension

5 extending from said bottom surface to said upper edge surface;

growing plants on a growing medium to a seedling stage;

placing said medium in said tray; and

distributing said tray, with said medium placed in said tray and said plants growing on said medium, for sale to a

10 consumer while said plants are still in the seedling stage;

said height dimension being such that a top surface of said growing medium is closely adjacent to said upper edge surface when said medium is placed in said tray.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said plants are culinary herbs.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein growing said plants to said seedling stage comprises growing said plants from seed for at least about four weeks.

*Sub a2* → 4. A method of packaging edible seedlings for distribution to and use by consumers, said method comprising:

providing a container including a top portion and a bottom portion, said container having a closed position in which said

5 top portion and said bottom portion meet at an interface;

growing plants on a growing medium to a seedling stage;

placing said medium in said bottom portion of said container;

10 closing said container, with said medium in said bottom portion, into said closed position; and

distributing the closed container for sale to a consumer while said plants are still in the seedling stage;

15 said bottom portion having a height dimension such that a top surface of said growing medium is closely adjacent to said interface when said medium is placed in said bottom portion,

and said top portion having a height dimension such that, when said container is in said closed position and said medium is in said bottom portion with said plants in the seedling stage extending upwardly therefrom, said plants are freely received in and protected by said top portion.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said top portion and said bottom portion are hingedly connected to each other along a side portion of said interface.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said container includes a latch opposite said side portion of said interface to releasably secure said container in said closed position, and closing said container includes engaging said latch.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein said container includes a latch to releasably secure said container in said closed position, and closing said container includes engaging said latch.

8. The method of claim 4, comprising providing said container with venting to allow said plants to have access to fresh air when said plants are in said container and said container is in said closed position.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein providing said container with venting comprises leaving at least one gap between said top portion and said bottom portion when said container is in said closed position.

10. The method of claim 4, wherein said container has an open position in which, when said medium is in said bottom portion with said plants in the seedling stage extending upwardly from said medium, said plants are easily accessible to a user to allow stem portions of said plants to be snipped.

11. The method of claim 5, wherein said container has an open position in which, when said medium is in said bottom portion with said plants in the seedling stage extending upwardly from said medium, said plants are easily accessible to a user to allow stem portions of said plants to be snapped.

12. The method of claim 4, wherein said plants are culinary herbs.

*Sub A3* → 13. The method of claim 4, comprising providing a plurality of said containers, and providing said top portion and said bottom portion of each container with complementary portions to facilitate stacking of the containers and inhibit accidental tipping of a stack of the containers.

14. The method of claim 4, wherein said medium is placed in said bottom portion after said plants have been grown to the seedling stage.

15. The method of claim 4, wherein growing said plants to said seedling stage comprises growing said plants from seed for at least about four weeks.

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